

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 05059 111939Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /098 W
-----102882 120445Z /21

R 111848Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE 7102
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
USUN NEWYORK 623
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 5059

E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH
SUBJ: BELIZE: PUBLIC REACTION TO US CLARIFICATION OF YOUNG
STATEMENT

REF: STATE 189611

1. ALL MAJOR MORNING PAPERS AUGUST 11 USED TEXTUALLY
GUIDANCE FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT (REF) WHICH AMBASSADOR
LEFT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA PREVIOUS DAY. HEADLINE
INTERPRETATIONS VARIED: PRENSA LIBRE: "US RATIFIES
NEUTRALITY IN BELIZE CASE;" EL GRAFICO: "US WILL
RESPECT ANGLO-AMERICAN ACCORD OVER BELIZE;" LA NACION:
"USA: INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE 'IF THAT WERE' THE AGREED
SOLUTION. DIPLOMATIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE - CHESS GAME
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KEEPS GETTING MORE CONFUSING." AFTERNOON LA TARDE
AUGUST 10 DREW ANOTHER CONCLUSION FROM EFE STORY
REPORTING SAME EXPLANATION ORIGINATING WITH DEPARTMENT,
SIMPLY "US SUPPORTS BELIZE INDEPENDENCE."

2. EDITORIALIZING HAS BEEN LIMITED THUS FAR TO EL GRAFICO
WHICH DESCRIBED EPISODE AS "TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT." DIS-

COUNTING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS AS "IRRREFLECTIVE, OF PERHAPS MISUNDERSTOOD," EL GRAFICO CONCLUDED THAT THEY "WERE CONVENIENTLY TAKEN CARE OF, AND THIS WAY NO ONE'S INTERESTS SUFFER DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE IS ELASTIC AND ACCOMMODATING. FORTUNATELY IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO TAKE LITERALLY EVERYTHING THAT IS SAID, BUT RATHER SEEK THE MOST FAVORABLE INTERPRETATION."

3. OFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMENT HAS BEEN MINIMAL. AFTER MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, FONMIN MOLINA TOLD PRESS GOG CONTINUES TO CONSIDER US POSITION "NEUTRAL". TO SUBSEQUENT QUESTION AS TO WHAT GOG WOULD DO SHOULD US DECIDE TO SUPPORT BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE, MOLINA PARRIED, "WE CAN'T SPEAK OF HYPOTHETICAL CASES."

4. QUESTIONED BY PRESS APPARENTLY BEFORE DISSEMINATION OF DEPARTMENT'S CLARIFICATION, NEW CHAIRMAN OF CONGRESSIONAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE JOSE LUIS CRUZ SALAZAR (INDEPENDENT) INTERPRETED EPISODE AS "AN ATTEMPT BY THE UN AMBASSADOR TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD." HE ADDED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHETHER AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD EXPRESSED A PERSONAL OR AN OFFICIAL OPINION. BOSTER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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